

REMARKS

The Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The pending claims are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over various combinations of U.S. Patent No. 5,673,128 to *Ohta et al.* (“*Ohta*”), U.S. Patent No. 5,341,231 to *Yamamoto et al.* (“*Yamamoto*”), European Patent No. EP 0663600 to *Koike et al.* (“*Koike*”), and European Patent No. EP 0607453 to *Funamoto et al.* (“*Funamoto*”). Applicants respectfully traverse, noting that none of these references discloses every element of the claims as amended. More specifically, none discloses luminance-compensating patterns whose size and density varies according to their locations on the light exiting surface of a light guide plate.

Ohta at most discloses dots 25 on reflecting face 23f of light guiding plate 23, not on light emitting face 23g (FIG. 10; Col. 9:36-67). Accordingly, *Ohta* does not disclose any luminance-compensating pattern located on a light exiting surface of a light guide plate, and certainly cannot disclose that any such patterns vary in size and density according to location on the light exiting surface.

None of the remaining references cures the deficiencies of *Ohta*. Like *Ohta*, *Yamamoto* at most only discloses plural protrusions 161c that do not appear to vary in either size or density along light guide plate 161 (FIG. 10). Similarly, prismatic elements 6 of *Koike* also do not appear to vary in either size or density along light scattering guide 1 (FIG. 2). Finally, *Funamoto* at most only discloses patterns of structures on lower surface 21b of polarizer 21, not on upper surface 21a (Col. 14:15-27, Col. 18:31-36; FIG. 11). Thus, *Funamoto* does not disclose any patterns on a light exiting surface, and certainly cannot disclose any patterns that vary in size and density according to location on a light exiting surface.

In summary, none of these references discloses luminance-compensating patterns whose size and density varies according to their locations on the light exiting surface of a light guide plate. Claims 1 and 12 as amended are thus patentable over each of these references, singly or in combination, for at least the reason that they both recite a “light guide plate” with a “light exiting surface,” “wherein a size and a density of the luminance-compensating patterns vary according to locations of the luminance-compensating patterns on the light exiting surface.” The remaining pending claims each depend from one of claims 1 and 12, and are thus also patentable for at least this same reason.

Conclusion

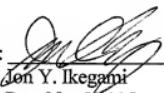
The Examiner is invited to call Applicant's attorney at the number below if any questions arise.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any deficiencies in fees and credit any overpayment of fees to Deposit Account No. 08-1394.

Respectfully submitted,

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) via the USPTO's EFS-Web electronic filing system on August 14, 2009.

Jon Y. Ikegami

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